



U.S. Department of Education
Grant Performance Report (ED 524B)
Executive Summary

OMB No. 1890 - 0004
Expiration: 10-31-2007

PR/Award #: (R372A060132)

Arkansas Department of Education (ADE)

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) is pleased to report that much progress has been made toward its creation of a Longitudinal Data System (LDS). ADE has involved stakeholders throughout the design of the LDS and continues to seek input through formal settings such as workgroups and informal channels such as training. It is especially satisfying that new uses for the LDS are being created by users that were not originally planned or foreseen. And within a single academic semester of the LDS rollout, almost 10% of Arkansas teachers are now securely accessing their own students' historical course and assessment data, and many teachers are also adding their own data to the LDS in the form of a statewide interim testing program.

In brief, here is the progress made on the six project objectives in our original proposal:

1. Maintain statewide systems of unique, permanent student identifiers:

All public school students, teachers, and administrators now have a unique ten digit identification number that is automatically generated and which has been demonstrated to continue to match records even if the individual changes their name or SSN.

2. Develop, implement and maintain enterprise-wide data architecture:

A Steering Committee for the project, composed of representatives from various stakeholder groups, has been assigned and meets quarterly. Work has begun on an electronic data dictionary to identify the data elements and business rules for all data collecting and reporting sources and which documents the data flow between these systems.

3. Establish a Quality Assurance program:

A Data Architecture and Stewardship workgroup has been assigned and meets quarterly. A data quality plan has been created and accepted by the Steering Committee. The project office for the LDS has been constituted as ADE Office of Data Quality. A review of policies associated with data collection, maintenance, and reporting is underway.

4. Maintain, enhance, and add source ancillary systems:

The data warehouse has been placed in production and is being used at the state, district, and school level. An electronic transcript system has been implemented and well received. A new system for collecting and maintaining professional licensure information has been developed and will "go live" next quarter. Training for the LDS has been ongoing since May, 2006, and demand for training has required the project office to expand its training to online synchronous and asynchronous offerings.

5. Construct, implement and maintain a data warehouse:

The data warehouse was placed in production with the start of this academic year. It is being used extensively in districts for financial reporting, and training in its use for the reporting of

student information will begin next quarter. ADE has also begun using the warehouse for the creation of Federal reports.

6. Distribution/training on use of warehouse data and business intelligence tools:

Over four hundred users have been trained on the warehouse, and over four thousand users have been trained in the electronic transcript system. Training has been extended to include in-person and online synchronous and asynchronous offerings. A “train the trainer” model was used for Arkansas’ Educational Service Centers, and they have begun offering their own training on the LDS as well.

7. Conduct a program of evaluation of the system’s effectiveness in improving teaching and student achievement:

Metis Associates has been contracted to evaluate the LDS project. An evaluation plan has been accepted and formal evaluation begins next quarter.